UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/299/Add.1
16 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. Regular consultations have been held between the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) and the United Nations Secretariat (Department of Political Affairs, Africa II Division) on the crises in several French-speaking African countries, particularly in the Great Lakes region. In addition to exchanges of information on developments in the situation and the various initiatives taken in the search for a negotiated and peaceful settlement, all the organizations have been invited to the meetings organized by each other in this area. For example, the United Nations was involved in and represented at the meeting of the Francophone Contact Group on the situation in the Great Lakes region held in Paris on 19 and 20 June 1997. Similarly, and at the invitation of the United Nations, ACCT participated in the meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa which was held at Libreville from 7 to 11 July 1997.

2. Periodic consultations have also been held with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, which have made it possible to ensure, in the course of several elections in French-speaking countries, genuine coordination between ACCT and United Nations observer teams.

3. The Secretary-General of ACCT visited New York in October 1995, October 1996 and June 1997. On those occasions he met with senior officials of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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4. The President of the Conseil permanent de la Francophonie visited New York in May 1997, to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Security Council, the group of French-speaking countries and the Presidency of the group of non-aligned countries.

5. The Agency participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the World Food Summit in Rome and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly ("Rio + 5"), at each of which it facilitated, both materially and logistically, the participation of French-speaking countries. It also set up meetings between those countries, which consistently led to the adoption of common positions, thereby facilitating the reaching of consensus at those conferences.

6. To prepare for the participation of French-speaking countries in the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Agency organized a meeting of experts from its member countries at Bordeaux, France, from 9 to 11 December 1996; both the United Nations Secretariat (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) and the World Bank (Global Environment Facility) were invited to the meeting and played an active part in it.

7. The United Nations Secretariat (Department of Public Information) and the International Telecommunication Union were closely involved in the preparations for and the holding of the Conference of Ministers of French-speaking Countries working with the information highway, held at Montreal, Canada, from 19 to 21 May 1997. The United Nations was represented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information.

8. A meeting of senior officials of ACCT and UNICEF was held in Paris at ACCT headquarters on 28 and 29 May 1997 to discuss the implementation of the agreement of 2 October 1996.

9. The framework cooperation agreement between ACCT and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was signed on 8 September 1997.

10. Cooperation between ACCT and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Madagascar focuses on mobilization of resources for investment, promotion of the private sector and support for micro- and small enterprises.

11. Meetings have been held with UNDP in the Lao People's Democratic Republic to ensure cooperation under the micro-finance programme of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

12. The Agency has cooperated with UNDP in Togo on the establishment of a network for the collection, processing and dissemination via the Internet of information on sustainable development; and a joint project is being undertaken with UNDP in Togo to set up local radio stations in rural areas.

13. The Agency is cooperating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to revitalize the Centre régional d'action culturelle at Lomé.

United Nations A/52/299/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 October 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 22

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has undertaken cooperative activities with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) in the translation and dissemination of documents in French. UNCTAD intends to pursue such cooperation and to broaden it in the context of its activities related to trade points in French-speaking countries. A presentation will be made on this at the meeting on the theme of the French-speaking community and the information super-highway to be held at Montreal.

2. The UNCTAD TRAINFORTRADE programme is designed by UNCTAD in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to develop human resources for international trade and related services to allow developing countries to enhance competitiveness and to take advantage of the new opportunities for trade. In this context, in 1994 and 1995, UNCTAD held several training of trainers programmes in cooperation with ACCT in the field of trade policies and commodities (physical markets and risk management), from which about 60 trainers benefited.

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